

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments in General / Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

1. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.
2. Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 12 have all been amended to be definite, consistent with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 9 has been amended in that the Examiner likely would have argued that "the length" lacks proper antecedent basis. Such changes add no new matter.
3. The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if the §112 rejections are overcome. As such, claims 7-12 should now be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under §102(b) as being anticipated by Ostergaard, II et al.
5. The limitations of claims 2 and 3 have been added into claim 1, and claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.
6. The Examiner has previously indicated that "Claims 3...would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112...and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Claim 3 depended from claim 2 which depended from claim 1. By incorporating the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 into claim 1, claim 1 should now be found to be allowable, including all of the claims that depend therefrom (including claims 5 and 6). As such, the §102 rejection has been overcome. Such changes add no new matter.
7. As such, claims 1 and 4-6 should now be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that all pending claims (1 and 4-12) are now allowable. If the Examiner feels it would advance the application to allowance or final rejection, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

DATED this 30th day of September 2004.

Very respectfully,




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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the below date as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DATE: September 30, 2004


Amber R. Smith

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1-5, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet